

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 12581 271242Z

10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /065 W

----- 082266

R 271207Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6626

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LA, TH

SUBJECT: MEO REFUGEES

1. THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE RESETTLEMENT OF MEO REFUGEES WITH PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT TODAY. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ASSURANCES FROM THE LAO PGNU REGARDING THE SECURITY AND WELFARE OF THE MEO WERE BEING SOUGHT BUT EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT MANY WOULD RETURN. HE RECALLED MR. HABIB'S CONVERSATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT WHICH U.S. WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN THE RESETTLEMENT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND SUGGESTED THAT TALKS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE APPROPRIATE THAI MINISTRIES SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT AN EARLY DATE SO THAT THE USG COULD COMMENCE TO PLAN ITS PARTICIPATION IN THIS OPERATION.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT HE AGREED TOTALLY WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATION. IF HE WERE MEO, HE WOULD NOT CONSIDER RETURNING TO LAOS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF MEO GOING BACK TO LAOS WAS REMOTE. HE STATED THAT IT WAS CLEARLY NECESSARY FOR THE RTG TO HELP SETTLE THESE PEOPLE IN THAILAND AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE URGENCY. THE PRIME MINISTER MUSED AS TO WHETHER THE MINISTRYD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 12581 271242Z

OF INTERIOR OR THE RTA WAS BEST QUALIFIED TO HANDLE

THE MEO RESETTLEMENT AND CONCLUDED THAT THE ARMY AND THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SHOULD GET TOGETHER AND DEVELOP A PLAN. AIR MARSHAL SITTHI, WHO WAS PRESENT, WAS DIRECTED TO ASSURE THAT A MEETING WAS HELD AT AN EARLY DATE TO FORMULATE PLANNING ON THE THAI SIDE. HE WAS ALSO INSTRUCTED TO ASSURE CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE RTG ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER OVERRODE SUGGESTIONS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, THAT THE MEO BE RESETTLED IN THE UNITED STATES AND WAS VERY FORTHRIGHT IN HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THAI RE-

SPONSIBILITY FOR THE MEO.

4. ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF LAOS, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT HE HAD TODAY ORDERED THE CLOSING OF THE THAI CONSULATES IN PAKSE, SAVANNAKHET AND BAN HOUET SAI FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BY THE PGNU THAT IT COULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF THAI CONSULATE PERSONNEL. THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT SINCE CONDITIONS ON THE LAO SIDE OF THE BORDER WERE SO UNSETTLED, HE HAD DIRECTED THAT THE WHOLE THAI/LAO FRONTIER BE CLOSED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CROSSING POINT NEAR VIENTIANE. THE PRIME MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF THE LAO CAUSED THAILAND ANY FURTHER DIFFICULTY, HE WAS PERFECTLY PREPARED TO CLOSE THIS CROSSING POINT ALSO AND LET THE LAO STARVE.

5. COMMENT: THE ATTITUDE DISPLAYED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN THIS PORTION OF OUR CONVERSATION WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND WE BELIEVE THAT SOME ACTION ON THE MEO PROBLEM MAY BE TAKEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HIS COMMENTS ON THE TOTAL CLOSING OF THE THAI/LAO FRONTIER WERE TOSSED OFF IN AN AIRY WAY AND WE DOUBT THAT HE WILL DIRECT ANY ACTION OF THIS KIND WITHOUT FURTHER REFLECTION.
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO12581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750224-0591
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975067/aaaaafue.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEO REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, LA, TH, (KHUKRIT PRAMOT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006